

GENERAL DEFINITIONS

Animal handler

means a person with a knowledge of the behaviour and needs of *animals* ~~who~~ which, with appropriate experience and a professional and positive response to an *animal's* needs, ~~results in~~ can achieve effective management and good welfare. ~~Their competence should be demonstrated through independent assessment and certification from the Competent Authority or from an independent body accredited by the Competent Authority. (under study)~~ Competence should be gained through formal training and/or practical experience.

Competent Authority

means the *Veterinary Services*, Authority or other Governmental Authority of a Member Country, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of the animal health measures ~~or~~ and other standards and guidelines in the *Terrestrial Code* in the entire territory of the country.

~~Veterinary Administration~~

~~means the governmental *Veterinary Service* having authority in the whole country for implementing the animal health measures and international veterinary certification process which the OIE recommends, and supervising or auditing their application.~~

Veterinary Authority

~~means a *Veterinary Service*, under the authority of the *Veterinary Administration*, which is directly responsible for the application of animal health measures in a specified area of the country. It may also have responsibility for the issuing or the supervision of the issuing of *international veterinary certificates* in that area.~~

means the Governmental Authority of a Member Country, comprising veterinarians, other professionals and para-professionals, having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health measures and other standards and guidelines in the *Terrestrial Code* in the entire territory of the country.

Veterinary Service(s)

~~means the *Veterinary Administration*, all the *Veterinary Authorities*, and all persons authorised, registered or licensed by the veterinary statutory body.~~

means the infrastructure comprising the governmental and non-governmental organisations that deliver animal health measures and other standards and guidelines in the *Terrestrial Code* in the entire territory of the country. The *Veterinary Services* are under the overall control and direction of the *Veterinary Authority*. Private sector organisations are normally accredited or approved to deliver functions by the *Veterinary Authority*.